10   comparing the product numbers in the invoice data to product numbers in the database to

11   compile a customs entry report where the product numbers in the invoice are each assigned a

12   harmonized tariff number;

13   using the customs entry report to create a master report to facilitate entry of the products

14   into the country, wherein the master report includes the harmonized tariff numbers assigned to

15   each of the product numbers;

16   sending the master report to a government customs office;

17   importing the products into the country; and

18   facilitating passage of the products through the country's customs office using the master

19   report created as a result of the comparing step.

REMARKS

Claims 1-60 are pending in the Application.

Claims 1-60 stand rejected.

New claims 61-62 have been added.

I.   INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The Examiner has requested that Applicants supply information regarding the allegedly infringing product that is the subject of the Petition to Make Special. As Applicants have discussed with the Examiner over the telephone, Applicants do not consider such infringing product to be prior art, and thus not a proper subject for an information disclosure statement.

II.   SPECIFICATION

The Examiner has objected to the Specification asserting that there is no disclosure in the Specification for limitations within certain of the claims. Applicants respectfully traverse these objections for the following reasons:

With respect to the objection to the disclosure based on claim 38, the Examiner has asserted that there appears to be no disclosure for customizing the database as recited in claim 38. The Examiner is respectfully requested to refer to page 7, lines 3-8 wherein it states that a customer can create the database for the storage and retrieval of product and tariff classification data and that such a database can be managed by an importer, exporter, or their assigned and authorized agents. Page 8, lines 5-8 further discloses that the tariff classification data can be managed by a user to ensure that the information complies with import/export regulations. Further, page 14, lines 2-3 recites that a customer or website administrator can update and maintain the database by adding, editing, or deleting records. Applicants respectfully assert that the updating, maintaining, and managing of the database as disclosed within these referenced portions of the Specification discloses how the database information can be customized, including so that the database is in compliance with local customs regulations.

With respect to claims 27-28, 39-40 and 46-47, the Examiner has asserted that there is no disclosure in the Specification for "at least one product identifier . . . unique to a particular company." Again, Applicants respectfully traverse this objection. Figure 1, item 110 depicts the database that stores *customer* part numbers corresponding to tariff classification information. This is supported on page 13, lines 15–16 of the Specification where the part numbers are entered into the website 105 and matched in step 109 to the central database of *customer* parts and tariff classification information 110. Page 7, lines 3-7 also supports these claims by disclosing that a *customer* will create the databases that provide for the storage and retrieval of product and tariff classification data. Page 12, lines 4-13 describes how a particular item or commodity is being bought and sold with respect to an import or export transaction, and accompanying such a transaction, an invoice is generated in accordance with the purchase of the goods, which includes a list of the part numbers or commodities involved in the transaction. Such an invoice is shown in Figure 3, item 102 where each good has an associated product ID number. Since invoices are customer specific and list the customer's specific part numbers, it naturally follows that the part numbers that are matched to the database 110 are particular to a

customer, since companies do not share part numbers with other companies. That is, for example, Dell and IBM will not use the same part numbers for the same goods. As the present invention discloses, as pointed out by Applicants above, the database 110 is maintained by a customer where the customer's product ID numbers are matched in the database with tariff classification numbers. Then, when the customer is about to import or export such goods, the invoice data will be utilized from the purchase order to input the product ID numbers into the database for retrieval of the associated tariff classification numbers. If another customer somehow entered in their part numbers into the database 110, which had been created by a particular customer, the matching process would be unsuccessful, quite naturally. Moreover, page 15, lines 16-18 discloses how master reports can be created as customer-based information for each of the customer's transactions through this system.

With respect to claim 54, the Examiner has asserted that there is no disclosure for scanning invoice data. Since scanning is a well known process for creating an electronic copy, and since the Specification does adequately support the input of electronic copies of invoice data into the system, claim 54 is supported by the Specification.

III.   REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Claims 56-58 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. More particularly, the Examiner has asserted that it is not clear as to how the limitations of claim 1 and its representative invention can import/export a product into a country using a data record as recited in claims 56-58.

In response, Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Claim 1 recites a "method for processing import/export transactions over a network." Claims 56-58 recite the further step of importing or exporting that product into the country using the data record created in claim 1. Applicants respectfully assert that such steps of importing or exporting can clearly be part of a method for processing an import/export transaction over a network. Claim 1 does not limit itself

to some type of "computerized method," but simply recites a "method." There is no prohibition against claiming a method that involves steps that are both performed by a computer and by a human operator.

IV.   REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-60 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over *Chelliah, et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,710,887) in view of *Bonney*. In response, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The basic test for non-obvious subject matter is whether the differences between the subject matter and the prior art are such that claimed subject matter as a whole would not have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which a subject matter pertains. The United States Supreme Court in *Graham v. John Deere & Co.*, 383 U.S. 1 (1966) set forth the factual inquiries which must be considered in applying the statutory test: (1) a determination of the scope and contents of the prior art; (2) ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue; and (3) resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.

For the reasons that follow, Applicants will show that the Examiner has failed to prove a *prima facie* case of obviousness in rejecting the claims for essentially two reasons. First, Applicants will show where limitations are not taught within either of the prior art references or their combination. Secondly, the Examiner's stated motivation for combining the two references is solely the Examiner's subjective opinion, and is not supported by any objective evidence. As the Examiner is well aware, supporting a rejection based on only subjective opinions is essentially using hindsight reasoning by taking Applicants' invention and using it as a blueprint for combining the two references. The Examiner's subjective opinion is not "knowledge which was within the level of ordinary skill in the art," but is "knowledge gleaned only from applicant's disclosure" without the support of objective evidence. *In re McLaughlin*, 443 F.2d 1392, 1395, 170 U.S.P.Q. 209, 212 (C.C.P.A. 1971). Since Examiner is not one skilled in the art, an unsupported opinion by an Examiner is insufficient to support a motivation to combine

references under § 103. An Examiner can satisfy the burden of obviousness in light of a combination only by showing some objective teaching leading to the combination. *In re Dembiczak*, 50 U.S.P.Q.2d 1614, 1617 (Fed. Cir. 1999). Broad conclusory statements regarding the teachings of multiple references standing alone are not evidence. *Id.*

Chelliah merely teaches a computerized system for enabling a person to purchase products over a network, such as the Internet. Referring to Fig. 2 of *Chelliah*, such a purchaser 12 will use their computer 140 to connect to a server 142, which will provide them with choices of products to buy. Once the customer 12 makes such choices using the user interface 13, the sales representative 114 will send the selected product choices to server 144 where prices for such products will be generated using the pricing engine 120. When the user decides to purchase the goods using a credit card, the payment handler 124 will handle such a transaction, and the order fulfillment interface 128 will complete the transaction.

The *Bonney* reference merely discloses a standalone database on CD ROM that has four modules containing U.S. and Canadian tariffs, U.S. Customs rulings and NAFTA Rules of Origin for access by a user. Essentially, instead of someone having to look through tariff books and customs rules in paper format, the user can retrieve this information on their computer using the provided CD ROM. It is important for the Examiner to note that the *Bonney* reference does not disclose "an international e-commerce system" as asserted by the Examiner on page 4 of Paper No. 11. There is absolutely no teaching or suggestion within the *Bonney* reference that the tariff classification database on the CD ROM can be utilized within an electronic commerce system, such as the e-commerce purchasing system disclosed in *Chelliah*. The *Bonney* product is merely a standalone database on CD ROM.

To support the combination of *Chelliah* and *Bonney* the Examiner has asserted that "it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to use the computerized tariff classification codes as taught by *Bonney* in *Chelliah et al*'s Price Cost Engine, element 120, so that *Chelliah et al* can accommodate the unique shipping charges when shipping internationally in addition to the ability of calculating the national shipping charges

disclosed by *Chelliah et al*, thereby expanding his customer base." Applicants respectfully assert that this is the Examiner's own subjective opinion and is not supported by any objective evidence. The Examiner's citation of column 8, lines 47-50 in *Chelliah* is insufficient objective evidence for supporting a suggestion that *Chelliah* could be modified by one skilled in the art to include tariff classification information for creating customs reports for facilitating the import or export of goods through a country's borders. This language within *Chelliah* merely is used to show examples of well known existing implementations of commerce subsystems that can be externally linked to the system described within *Chelliah*. Column 7, line 64 through column 8, line 44. There is no teaching within *Chelliah* that such external commerce subsystems can be implemented within the internal commerce subsystems taught in *Chelliah*. Without the support of objective evidence, the Examiner's motivation to combine *Chelliah* and *Bonney* must fail.

Hereinafter, Applicants will more specifically address each of the rejections of the claims.

Claims 1, 10, 19, and 24 recite inputting invoice data associated with an import/export transaction at a first terminal coupled to the network, wherein the invoice data includes a product identifier identifying a product to be transported in the import/export transaction. The Examiner has asserted that such invoice data reads on the transaction items noted in column 10, lines 63-65 of *Chelliah*. Applicants respectfully disagree. It is acknowledged that Examiners will broadly interpret claims, but the Examiner is respectfully reminded that such interpretations must be reasonable. The interpretations of the claim limitations hereinafter by the Examiner are unreasonable in light of the specific recitations within these claims. The claims specifically recite that such invoice data includes a product identifier identifying a product *to be transported in an import/export transaction*. The language cited in *Chelliah* by the Examiner merely teaches that the product database 116 includes information regarding items that are offered as a subject of transactions, where such information includes item identification numbers. Therefore, contrary to the Examiner's assertion, *Chelliah* does not teach or suggest invoice data that includes a product identifier identifying a product *to be transported in an import/export transaction*. Moreover, the language cited by the Examiner does not even teach that such

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information is included in an invoice, but merely discloses that an item identification number might be included within information stored in a product database 116, which is contained within what the Examiner has referred to as the server 144. Thus, the Examiner's assertions of where the invoice data is disclosed in *Chelliah* is inadequate, since the Examiner has not addressed a functionality of inputting the invoice data at a first terminal that is then coupled to the network. As the Examiner should be aware, Applicants may overcome an obviousness rejection by showing that the Examiner reached an incorrect conclusion of obviousness or based her obviousness determination on incorrect factual predicates. *In re Rouffet* 47 U.S.P.Q. 2d 1453, 1455 (Fed. Cir. 1998). That is the case here, where the Examiner's assertions of what is taught in *Chelliah* with respect to the cited claims is incorrect. Applicants also assert that the combination of *Bonney* and *Chelliah* does not teach or suggest the inputting of invoice data associated with an import/export transaction where such invoice data includes a product identifier identifying a product to be transported in the import/export transaction.

Claims 1, 10, 19, and 24 also recite the matching of the product identifier within the invoice data, identifying the product to be transported in the import/export transaction, to the product identifiers in the database. Nowhere within *Chelliah* or *Bonney*, or their combination, is it taught or suggested to match a product identifier identifying a product to be transported in an import/export transaction to the product identifiers in the database, which also includes tariff classification information particular to each of the product identifiers. To establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. MPEP § 2143.03. Since the matching claim limitations are not taught or suggested within the cited prior art, the Examiner's *prima facie* case of obviousness fails, and one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made would not have been able to recreate the claimed invention because of the lack of a teaching or suggestion of such a limitation. "The Examiner is broadly interpreting engine as also capable of storing tariff classification codes . . . ." Applicants respectfully assert that this is an unreasonably broad interpretation. First of all, the Examiner cannot more broadly interpret a prior art disclosure than what it does disclose. *Chelliah* merely

describes a system whereby a person can purchase items over the Internet. There is nowhere within *Chelliah* that teaches or suggests the importing or exporting of a product, which carries the special considerations of determining the correct tariff duties to be paid to U.S. Customs or some other governmental entity. *Chelliah* is merely concerned with establishing the price of an item and then charging the purchaser for that price. There is no concern whatsoever within *Chelliah* for the transporting of a product in an import/export transaction. Thus, Applicants respectfully assert that it is unreasonable for the Examiner to interpret the teachings of *Chelliah* so that the pricing engine is also capable of storing tariff classification codes.

The Examiner further asserts that *Chelliah* teaches that its engines are modules which can be altered. Applicants disagree. The language cited by the Examiner in columns 7 and 8, lines 64-67 and lines 1-44, respectively, does not teach that the modules themselves can be altered, but instead teaches that the modules are interchangeable so that the modules *as a whole* can be arranged in any combination for any particular store. Column 8, lines 21-22. Thus, *Chelliah* does not support the Examiner's contention that the price engine in *Chelliah* can be modified to include tariff classification information for matching with product identifiers associated with an import/export transaction.

With respect to the limitation of outputting a data record in response to the matching step, the Examiner has asserted that "the receipt" taught in *Chelliah*, in column 18, line 24, teaches this claim limitation. Applicants respectfully traverse. The receipt in *Chelliah* is merely a typical receipt to the customer showing that they have paid for an item purchased over the Internet. In contrast, the data record recited within the claims includes tariff classification information associated with the product identifier identifying the product. *Chelliah's* receipt and the data record recited in the claims are not similar. Nor does the combination of *Chelliah* and *Bonney* teach or suggest this claim limitation.

With respect to claims 2 and 11, the Examiner asserts that transmitting a data record or receipt using e-mail is a practice well known in the art. Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's assertion. Though the use of e-mail to transmit documents such as data records and

receipts may be well known in the art, it is not well known in the art to output a data record in response to a step of matching a product identifier identifying the product to the product identifiers in the database, wherein the data record includes tariff classification information associated with the product identifier identifying the product, wherein this data record is then *e-mailed to a second terminal coupled to a network that processes import/export transactions.* Under MPEP § 2144.03, since Applicants have traversed the Examiner's assertion of what is well known in the art, the Examiner must support such an assertion with <u>objective</u> evidence.

Furthermore, in support of the Examiner's rejection of claims 2 and 11, the Examiner has asserted that the second terminal recited in these claims reads on element 12 in *Chelliah.* Applicants disagree. Taking the Examiner's interpretation of the claims in view of *Chelliah,* the *first* terminal is the customer 12 in *Chelliah,* and therefore, customer 12 cannot be the *second* terminal. Element 12 in *Chelliah* is not a terminal, but is instead a person, i.e., the customer 12. *See* column 6, lines 28-31.

With respect to claims 3-5 and 12-14, the Examiner has also asserted that these limitations are well known in the art. Applicants also traverse these assertions by the Examiner for the same reasons as given above with respect to claims 2 and 11, and assert that the Examiner must provide an <u>objective</u> reference in support of the assertion under MPEP § 2141.03. As asserted above, Applicants state that it is not obvious and well known in the art *to download a data record to a second terminal,* print such a data record, and/or access a data record using a web browser where such a data record includes tariff classification information associated with the product identifier identifying the product. The Examiner has not even addressed the limitations of claims 5 and 14. As asserted above with respect to the rejection of claims 2 and 11, element 12 in *Chelliah* cannot be the second terminal under the Examiner's interpretations in view of *Chelliah,* where the Examiner has asserted that the inputting step is performed by element 140.

Furthermore, using the "PrtScn" button on a keyboard does not meet the limitations of the claims, since a customer 12 pressing such a button is not the same as outputting the data

record by printing when the data record is downloaded to a second terminal coupled to the network, since the customer 12 is not the second terminal, but is instead a person.

With respect to claims 6, 15 and 29, Applicants respectfully assert that neither *Chelliah* nor *Bonney*, nor their combination, teaches or suggests the step of electronically transmitting invoice data from a first terminal to a server, wherein the invoice data is associated with an import/export transaction at a first terminal coupled to the network, and wherein the invoice data includes a product identifier identifying a product to be transported in the import/export transaction. The Examiner's assertion that *Chelliah* teaches these limitations as the communication between blocks 142 and 144 is insufficient, since the first terminal at which the invoice data is inputted would have to be performed at the user interface 13 and not at server 142. As a result, Applicants respectfully assert that one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made would not have been able to recreate the claimed invention in view of the cited prior art references.

Regarding claims 8, 17, 21 and 31, Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's assertion that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the capability of updating the database from a third terminal coupled to the network. As a result, Applicant's respectfully assert that the Examiner must support his assertion of what is well known in the art with objective evidence, as required under MPEP § 2144.03. Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's recitation of column 11, lines 63-68 in *Chelliah*. This language does not in any way refer to the updating of the database from a third terminal coupled to the network. Neither do claims 13 and 14.

With respect to claims 9 and 18, the Examiner has asserted that Applicants' transaction database reads on element 128 in *Chelliah*. Applicants respectfully traverse. First of all, Applicants respectfully assert that the Examiner is ignoring the limitations of claims 9 and 18, except for the recitation of a transaction database. In other words, the Examiner has not specifically addressed the recording of results of the matching step into a transaction database hosted by the server, wherein the matching step matches the product identifier identifying the

product to the product identifiers in the database. The recording of results does not read on the merchant copy of the customer's receipt. The claim recites that the results of the matching step are recorded into a transaction database hosted by the server, not printed on a receipt.

With respect to claim 22, the Examiner has admitted that neither *Chelliah* nor *Bonney* teaches the claim limitations of claim 22, but has instead stated that it would have been obvious to transmit such a record to a customs entity. Applicants respectfully traverse such an assertion, since it does not conform to the requirements of *Graham vs. John Deere*. The Examiner cannot reject claims by merely stating that they would be obvious. Nowhere within *Chelliah* nor *Bonney*, nor their combination, is it taught or suggested to transform the output data record into a customs report for transmittal to a customs entity.

With respect to claim 26, the Examiner has asserted that the Fedex shipping calculator taught by *Chelliah* teaches the third web page recited in claim 26. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. The Fedex shipping calculator taught in *Chelliah* is merely presented in *Chelliah* as an example of an external commerce subsystem, and is not in any way taught or suggested as establishing a third web page, accessible by a third user at a third terminal coupled to the Internet using a web browser, that permits the third user to update the product identifier and corresponding tariff classifications in the database.

Claim 27 recites that the product identifier is unique to a particular company. The Examiner asserts that *Bonney* teaches this limitation in that with the database in *Bonney* the user can input part numbers into the database. Applicants respectfully assert that this still would not make obvious the invention recited within claim 27, which recites that invoice data is input at the first terminal wherein the invoice data would be associated with an import/export transaction, wherein the invoice data would include a product identifier identifying a product to be transported in the import/export transaction, wherein the product identifier is unique to a particular company. If one were to combine the database in *Bonney* into the pricing engine 120 in *Chelliah* as the Examiner has suggested, then this inputting step would not be in any way met by the combination. For this inputting step to be met by the combination of *Chelliah* and

Bonney, the customer 12 would have to input invoice data that includes a product identifier identifying products unique to the customer 12 into the user interface 13, and then these product identifiers would be sent through the sales representative p.o. 114 to the pricing engine 120 to match up with tariff classifications. However, a combination of *Bonney* and *Chelliah* would not provide such a capability, since all the customer 12 does is to select products using the user interface 13 offered by the sales representative p.o. 114. These products offered by the sales representative p.o. 114 are not particular to the customer 12. Stated another way, the way the Examiner has set up her obviousness rejection, the *Bonney* database could be input into the pricing engine 120 so that when a customer selected a product using the user interface 13, then the shipping costs would also be calculated by the pricing engine 120 and such shipping costs might include such import/export duties, which would assist *Chelliah* in being able to ship internationally, thereby expanding *Chelliah*'s customer base, to use the Examiner's words. However, as asserted by Applicants above, this is not what is being performed by the claimed invention. For the combination of *Chelliah* and *Bonney* to address the claim limitations, a customer 12 would have to be able to input into the user interface 13 product information that included product ID numbers, which would then be sent through sales representative p.o. 114 on towards pricing engine 120. A comparison would then be made within pricing engine 120 to output a report whereby for each product ID number a tariff classification number would be associated. This output data record would be specific to the products of the customer as recited within claim 27. With respect to some of the claims argued hereinafter, the combination of *Chelliah* and *Bonney* would then have to teach or suggest that this data record could be turned into a customs report for use in the import or export of the products associated with the particular customer. Applicants assert that the combination of *Chelliah* and *Bonney* does not meet these claim limitations.

Claim 28 recites that the import/export transaction is associated with a particular company. Since the combination of *Chelliah* and *Bonney* does not even suggest that an import/export transaction is occurring, then this claim limitation is not met by the combination.

With respect to claims 30 and 44, the Examiner has asserted that these limitations are taught within *Chelliah* in column 18, lines 12-24, with the Examiner asserting that therein it is stated that the invoice contains a listing of the items (product identifier) to be bought. Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's interpretation of this language within *Chelliah*. *Chelliah* teaches in columns 17 and 18 that once the customer 12 has selected a choice of payment type, the sales representative object 114 then calls a buying function. It is this call that performs the step of creating an invoice listing the items to be bought. Thus, it is the sales representative object 114 that creates the invoice, and not the customer 12 inputting an invoice, which is specifically recited within these claims. Therefore, *Chelliah* and *Bonney* do not teach or suggest individually or in combination that the matching step results in the tariff classification information being assigned to the product identifier included in the invoice data, wherein this invoice data is input along with the product identifier numbers, since according to the Examiner's interpretation, *Chelliah* does not teach that the customer 12 inputs the invoice data.

With respect to claim 34, the Examiner has admitted that neither *Chelliah* nor *Bonney* teaches the claim limitation of creating a customs entry report for the import/export transaction, but has merely asserted that it would have been obvious to create such a report as it would be necessary for dealing with customs. Applicants respectfully assert that this is an insufficient basis for proving up a *prima facie* case of obviousness. The Examiner bears the initial burden of *factually* supporting any *prima facie* conclusion of obviousness. MPEP § 2142. If the Examiner does not produce a *prima facie* case, the Applicant is under no obligation to submit evidence of non-obviousness. *Id.* The legal conclusion of obviousness must be reached on the basis of the facts gleaned from the prior art. *Id.* Applicants respectfully assert that the Examiner's conclusory assertion of obviousness in rejecting claim 34 is without support from any facts gleaned from the prior art, but is instead merely the Examiner's own subjective opinion.

With respect to claim 35, the Examiner has asserted that sorting data entries is considered to be old and well known. That may be true, but it is not old and well known to sort a customs

entry report by tariff numbers, wherein the customs entry report is created for an import/export transaction that has been processed using the steps of claim 1.

With respect to claim 36, Applicants traverse the Examiner's assertion that the creation of the master report of claim 36 is interpreted as being the same as the creation of the final receipt for the customer in *Chelliah*. The receipt in *Chelliah* merely informs a customer of how much they have been charged for items they have purchased over the Internet. This is not the same as creating a master report to facilitate an import/export transaction.

With respect to claims 37 and 60, the Examiner has asserted that creating a split screen is old and well known. Applicants respectfully traverse this assertion by the Examiner, and thus assert that the Examiner must provide a reference in support of this well known statement, as required under MPEP § 2144.03. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully assert that it is not old and well know to display a harmonized tariff schedule in a split screen during the step of matching product identifiers from inputted invoice data to the product identifiers in the database of claim 1. One skilled in the art at the time the invention was made would not have be able to create such an invention in view of the cited prior art references.

Regarding claims 51, 53 and 56, the Examiner is relying upon the previous rejection of claims 1 and 34, and has further asserted that it would have been obvious to send a report onto any applicable entities such as government customs offices. Applicants respectfully traverse these assertions by the Examiner. As argued by Applicants above with respect to claim 34, the Examiner cannot make blanket obviousness rejections without objective factual evidence in support of such obviousness rejections. The Examiner's rejection of these claims fails because it does not prove a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

Furthermore, neither *Chelliah* nor *Bonney* nor their combination teaches or suggests the step of creating an invoice representing a purchase of products by a customer resident within a country, wherein the invoice lists the products by product number. The invoice created within *Chelliah* is not created to represent the purchase of products by the customer 12 to import into the country. The step of uploading invoice data over network through a server from a

workstation coupled to the server over the network, wherein the invoice data is an electronic version of the invoice is not taught or suggested by either of the cited prior art references or their combination. Neither *Chelliah* nor *Bonney*, nor their combination, teaches or suggests the creation of a database of customer products and tariff classification information, wherein the database is accessible by the server, wherein the database comprises product numbers for products particularly associated with the customer, wherein the product numbers are each assigned a harmonized tariff number particular to the country. Neither *Chelliah* nor *Bonney*, nor their combination, teaches or suggests the step of comparing the product numbers in the invoice data to product numbers in the database to compile a customs entry report where the product numbers in an invoice are each assigned a harmonized tariff number. Neither *Chelliah* nor *Bonney*, nor their combination, teaches the step of using the customs entry report to create a master report to facilitate entry of the products into the country wherein the master report includes the harmonized tariff numbers assigned to each of the product numbers. Neither *Chelliah* nor *Bonney*, nor their combination, teaches or suggests the step of sending the master report to a government customs office. As a result of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully assert that one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made would not have been able to recreate the invention specifically recited within claim 51 in view of the cited prior art references.

With respect to claim 53, neither *Chelliah* nor *Bonney*, nor their combination, teaches the step of importing the products into the country, nor do those cited prior art references teach or suggest facilitating passage of the products through the country's customs office using the master report created as a result of the comparing step. As a result of the foregoing, one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made would not have been able to recreate the invention specifically recited within claim 53 in view of the cited prior art references.

With respect to claim 56, the Examiner has not even specifically addressed this claim limitation. Nevertheless, neither *Chelliah* nor *Bonney*, nor their combination, teaches or suggests the step of importing a product into a country using the data record created in claim 1.

With respect to claims 58 and 59, the Examiner has asserted that Applicants' data record reads on the receipt in *Chelliah*. For reasons given above, Applicants again traverse such an assertion by the Examiner. The Examiner has then gone on to say that it would have been obvious to use such a data record to create a customs entry report to facilitate the importing of a product into the country. Again, the Examiner is making an obviousness determination without any supporting facts. Thus, the Examiner's obviousness rejection fails since it does not amount to a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

V.   CONCLUSION

As a result of the foregoing, it is asserted by Applicants that the remaining claims in the Application are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request an early allowance of such claims.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner call Applicants' attorney at the below listed number if the Examiner believes that such a discussion would be helpful in resolving any remaining problem.

Respectfully submitted,

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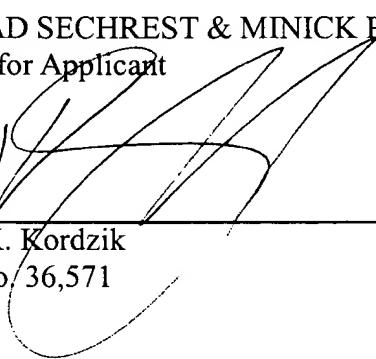
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